(d) whether Government consider to accord sanction for the construction of remaining buildings; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) 3200 Anganwadi buildings were originally sanctioned, in April 1999, to Kerala under the World Bank assisted ICDS-III Project. Later on, in October 2000, at the request of the State Government, the number of buildings was reviewed and changed to 1600.

(b) As per information available from the State Government, 1140 buildings have been completed till 31-5-2003. 460 buildings are remaining to be completed.

(c) No request to reschedule the time-frame for the completion of construction has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(d) There is no requriement to accord fresh sanction for the construction of the remaining 460 buildings.

Representation received from Chartered Accountants Association

3256. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation from any Chartered Accountants Association for not allowing US based accountancy firms to practice in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) As informed by the Ministry of Finance, the Convenor of Chartered Accountants Action Committee (CAAC) in his letter, forwarding the 'White Paper on Multinational Accounting Firms (MAFs) Operating in India', has *inter alia* suggested that MAFs be banned from undertaking any audit or other attestation work directly or through their surrogates, that MAFs be not allowed to operate as consultants in India unless the countries in and from which the MAFs operate allow the Indian

CA firms to practice in those countries, that the MAFs be not allowed to handle any sensitive assignments of the Indian financial sector, that their record outside India is factored into their selection for any consultancy assignments in India etc. Copy of the letter of the Convenor was also received by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education. No specific case of violation of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 by the MAFs has been reported in the letter of the Convenor, CAAC.

Mechanism to co-ordinate academic and professional standards

3257. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have created any mechanism to co-ordinate academic and professional standards in the field of higher education;

(b) if not, how does Government propose to ensure keeping up of necessary standards in the context of establishment of Private Universities; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Government, by an Act of Parliament, in 1956, has established the University Grants Commission to take, in consultation with the Universities or other bodies concerned, all such steps as it may think fit for the promotion and coordination of University education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities. Similarly, the Government has also established the All India Council for Technical Education by an Act of Parliament in 1987 with a view to proper planning and coordinated development of the technical education system throughout the country, promotion of qualitative improvement of such education in relation to planned quantitative growth and the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical education.

Appointment made by DU/UGC

3258. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :